

Senate Update – February 4, 2008

Last Week in the Senate

The Senate resumed consideration of the FISA Amendments Act of 2007 (S. 2248). On Monday January 28, 2008, the Senate took their only two roll call votes of the week. The first vote was on a motion to invoke cloture on the underlying bill filed by Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY). This motion failed by a vote of 48 to 45. The second vote was to invoke cloture on an amendment sponsored by Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) that would extend the Protect America Act for 30-days. This motion also failed by a vote of 48 to 45.

**Note: The House passed the Responsible Electronic Surveillance That is Overseen, Reviewed, and Effective Act of 2007 (H.R. 3773) on November 15, 2007, by a vote of 227 to 189 ([Roll no. 1120](#)). ([Legislative Digest for H.R. 3773](#)).*

The Senate approved a 15-day extension of the Protect America Act (H.R. 5104) by unanimous consent on January 29, 2008, the same day the House approved the extension by voice vote. ([Legislative Digest for H.R. 5104](#))

Also of note this week, Minority Leader McConnell announced the creation of a Republican Fiscal Reform Working Group. The working group will be chaired by Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN) and will review the earmark process and make suggestions to the Senate Republican Conference on how to increase transparency and fiscal responsibility by March 15, 2008. ([McConnell Press Release](#))

This Week in the Senate

The Senate is expected to resume consideration of S. 2248 on Monday. The Senate is expected to consider a number of amendments to this legislation.

In addition, the Senate may consider the Economic Stimulus package that was approved by the Senate Committee on Finance on January 30, 2008. ([Text of Committee Approved Economic Stimulus Package](#))

Key Hearings

The President's budget will be available on Monday, February 4, 2008. The Senate will hold a number of Budget related hearings throughout the week with numerous government officials.

February 6, 2008

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations will hold a hearing titled "The Status of Six Party Talks for the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

February 7, 2008

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will hold a hearing focused on working families and the economy.

Senate Committee on Finance will hold a hearing on the need for oversight of the sale of private Medicare plans.